

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-21 remain pending in the application. Claim 12 has been canceled. Claims 1, 6-8, 11, 13-15 and 17 have been amended. Claim 21 is new. Basis for the amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings originally filed.

DRAWINGS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "36" has been used to designate both the rebound outlet and the guide rod in figure 1. Figure 1 has been amended to illustrate the rebound outlet as being reference numeral 56 which is consistent with the specification. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The claims have been amended to delete reference to first and second blowoff valves. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

SPECIFICATION

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On pg. 11 the phrase "In the above formula: ...OA=diameter of bore 124 BV=area of orifice 86 or 94 which is open P=pressure is unclear since the formula does not include parameters "AO", "BV", and "P". The specification has been amended by correcting the formula to include the missing parameters. The corrected formula for the blowoff lever is believed to be

inherent in the design of the valve as illustrated in Figure 6. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The claims have been amended to be consistent with the specification. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 13-17 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicants have canceled the missing Claim 12 and has amended Claims 13-17 to be dependent on Claim 21. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The claims have been amended to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Groves, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,464,048). Claim 1 has been amended to define the piston as having compression passages with a compression valve and

rebound passages with a rebound valve. The rebound valve is defined as opening at a higher pressure than the compression valve.

Groves, et al., in Figures 7 and 8, discloses a compression valve but Groves, et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest a rebound valve as is now defined in amended Claim 1. While other shock absorbers known in the art may disclose compression valves and rebound valves in a piston, there is nothing in Groves, et al. which would suggest combining these to provide Groves, et al. with a rebound valve since all fluid flow other than the fluid flow through valve 22 of Groves, et al. is defined as flowing through base valve assembly 226. Groves, et al. does not discuss fluid flow through the illustrated compression valve and defines fluid flow to upper working chamber 24 during a compression stroke as occurring through valve 244 as illustrated in Figure 8.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 1, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the art of record. Likewise, Claims 2-11 and 13-20, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet" of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. The attached "Replacement Sheet," which includes Figure 1, replaces the original sheet including Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Please change reference numeral 36 to 56.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes



1/4

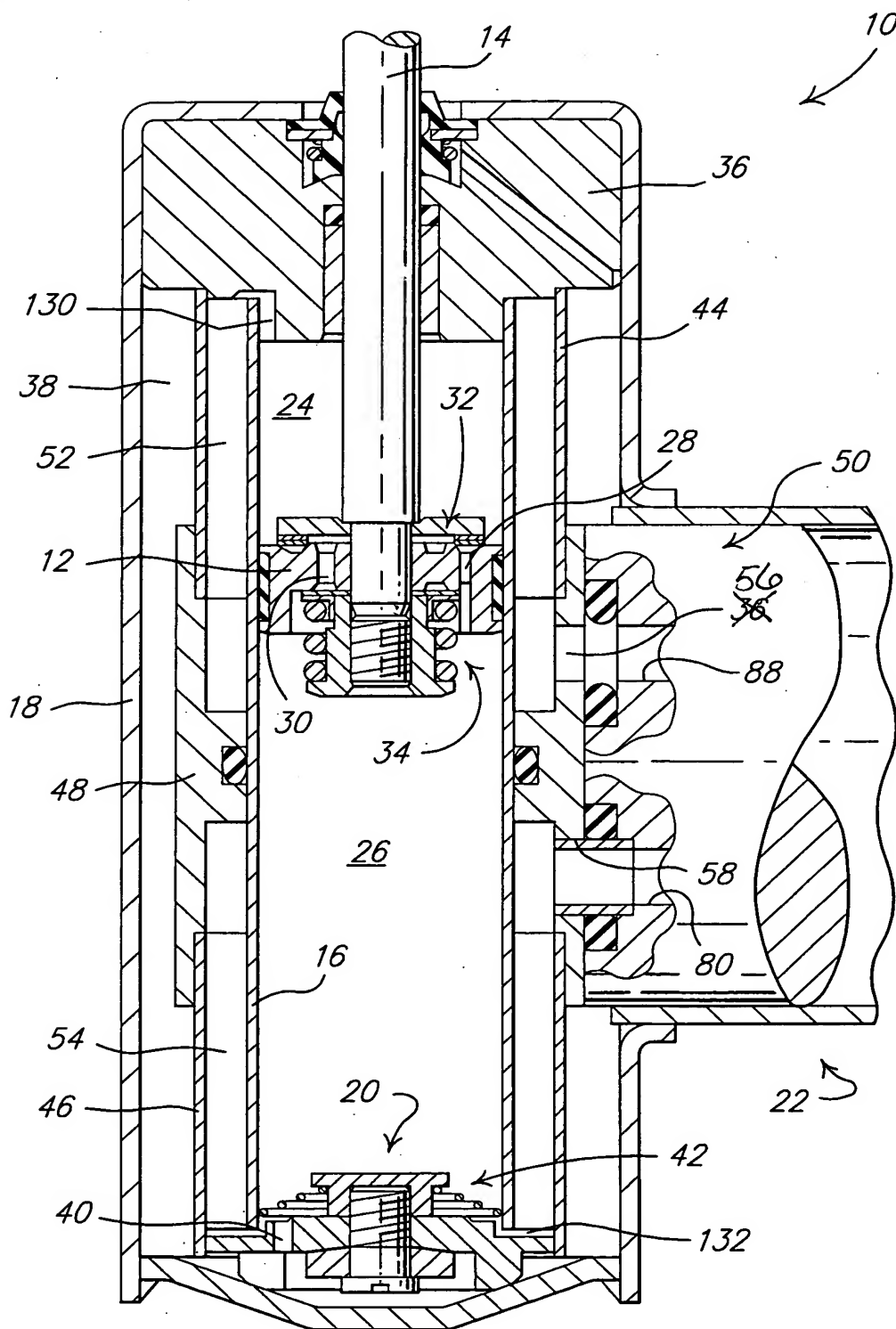


FIG. 1.